

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the attached Replacement Sheets of the drawings.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS

With the entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Abstract, Specification and Claims have been amended in line with the helpful suggestions of the Examiner on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. The Abstract, Specification, Drawings and Claims have been placed in more conventional U.S. format and to address English translation aspects. No new matter has been added by the amendments, which merely use more conventional U.S. wording and phraseology.

Turning to the specific objections, the drawings stand objected on page 2 of the Office Action because the details are allegedly not reproducible for publication purposes. Applicant suspects that the USPTO's scanning of applicant's original application did not accurately reproduce the drawings. To address the objections in this U.S. application, applicant submits herewith replacement sheets of various drawings. No new matter has been added. Applicant submits that these replacement sheets render moot the objections.

In response to the objection to the Abstract on page 2 of the Office Action, applicant has amended the Abstract in line with the helpful suggestions of the Examiner. Applicant submits that the Abstract amendments render moot the objections.

The specification stands objected to on pages 3-4 of the Office Action. In response, applicant has amended the specification in line with the helpful comments of the Examiner. All of the Examiner's suggestions have been utilized with the exception of amending the phrase "spotted" on page 9, line 15. Applicant submits this word is an acceptable term of art, at least in Europe where the invention originated. Applicant submits that the specification amendments obviate the objections.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 3-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for the reasons stated on page 4 of the Office Action. In line with the helpful suggestions of the Examiner, applicant has amended the claims to place them in more conventional U.S. patent claim format. Applicant submits that the amendments obviate the rejection.

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Berstis (U.S. Patent 6,799,462) in view of Pelrine (U.S. Patent 6,361,268). In response, applicant traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicant submits that Berstis is not prior art because the Berstis application was filed on June 5, 2003, which is after the September 2, 2002 priority date for the subject application. As indicated in the summary page of the Office Action, a certified copy of the priority document has been filed (and which is incorporated in the application by reference). Although the Examiner has not requested an English translation of the priority document, applicant is obtaining an English translation and will submit it in the near future, which will correspond to the subject U.S. application.

In view of the fact that Berstis is not prior art, applicant submits that there is no prima facie case of obviousness because the remaining secondary reference (Pelrine) does not render obvious claims 1, 2 and 6-8. Pelrine, by itself, does not disclose or suggest each of the features in claims 1, 2 and 6-8. Thus, applicant requests the withdrawal of the prior art rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

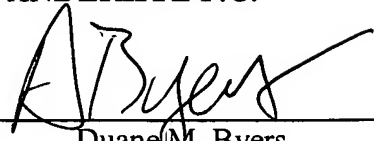
If the Examiner has any questions concerning this case, the undersigned may be contacted at 703-816-4009.

MOSER et al
Appl. No. 10/526,272
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Byers', is written over a horizontal line.

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